



Speech by

**Mr R. QUINN**

**MEMBER FOR ROBINA**

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Hansard 9 April 2002

**MOTION OF CONDOLENCE**

**Death of Mr N. E. Lee, MP**

**Mr QUINN** (Robina—Lib) (9.54 a.m.): I rise to second the condolence motion for the late Norm Lee. My colleagues and the Liberal Party join with me in paying tribute to the late Norm Lee, who served the people of Yeronga and the Liberal Party with great distinction in this parliament for a quarter of a century.

During his life, Norm Lee was successful at everything he did. He was a successful businessman, principally in the earthmoving industry, before he was elected to parliament at a by-election in the Yeronga electorate in June 1964. He was a successful and effective representative, demonstrated by the fact that he served for 25 years until he retired before the 1989 election, which saw his seat being won by Labor for the first time in its history. Not many men or women serve in this place for a quarter of a century. I am sure that his successor as the member for Yeronga, the Minister for Employment, Training and Youth and Minister for the Arts, is not planning to beat Norm Lee's record!

He was a minister for five years of portfolios in which he had a particular interest: works, housing and industry. He was a very effective minister, drawing on his vast experience and success in business in portfolios which had a strong business focus. When the coalition split in 1983, there was never any doubt where Norm Lee's loyalty lay. He had been a lifelong Liberal. Even though he had been a coalition minister, he continued to serve the Liberal Party from the cross benches with loyalty and distinction for another six years and was the party spokesman on the Works, Housing, Main Roads and Racing portfolios.

During his parliamentary career and after he retired, he developed a major interest in the cattle industry. At one stage, Norm and his son, Trevor, were amongst the largest individual or family owned cattle producers in Queensland. They were leaders in the live cattle export industry. I am told that their property near Roma was a model of efficient production and the use of the latest technology.

He was also successful in another great industry in our state—the racing industry. He raced thoroughbreds with great success, some in partnership with the late Ken Tomkins, who was a National Party minister and member for Roma during the coalition years.

When Norm was elected to parliament, he was asked to fill very large shoes. The by-election which Norm won was made necessary by the sudden death of the then Health Minister, Dr Winston Noble, who was not only a very effective minister but also a highly regarded representative of the Yeronga electorate. Norm filled those shoes more than adequately. He is fondly remembered by many organisations in the Yeronga electorate which benefited from his representation and advocacy over a quarter of a century.

After he retired, Norm maintained a keen interest in politics and in this parliament. He was vice-president of the Association of Former Members and regularly attended functions here with former colleagues. As I said earlier, his long career in both business and public life was marked by considerable success. He was a strong advocate for both the business and farm sectors, in which he achieved great success.

My colleagues and our party express to his wife, Dot, to his son and daughter and to all his family our sympathy at his passing and our appreciation for his contribution to Queensland, to the Yeronga electorate and to the Liberal Party.

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